



# Montana Department of Corrections **Correctional Signpost**



## MCE gets NOAA award

By Gail Boese  
MCE Administrative Officer

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has given Montana Correctional Enterprises the "Honored Institution Award" for 75 years of weather observations.

Bruce Bauck, meteorologist of the National Weather Service in Missoula, presented the award to Bill Dabney, MCE ranch director, and Andrew Olcott, MCE fiscal director.

Bauck complimented the accuracy and cooperation of the state operation for its reporting weather observations in the Deer Lodge Valley to the National Weather Service.

The service provides weather, hydrologic, climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. The agency's data and products form a national information database and infrastructure that can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

MCE inmate ranch clerks are trained to collect weather data that become part of the nation's climate records. On a daily basis, an inmate clerk records the temperature and precipitation at the ranch station, computes a monthly average and sends a monthly report to the Weather Service office in Missoula.

This data, along with data from Doppler weather radars, satellites, data buoys for marine observations, surface observing systems, and instruments for monitoring space weather and air quality are fed into sophisticated computer models. Weather Service employees analyze the data to make their forecasts.



MCE's Bill Dabney, left, and Andrew Olcott, center, accept the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration award from NOAA's Bruce Bauck, right.

## Busy year for department

By Bob Anez  
DOC Communications Director

The Department of Corrections has had a full plate during the latter half of 2005.

A fresh concept in Montana was launched in mid-December with the opening of a new program at Warm Springs for handling those who violate conditions of their community placement.

The 80-bed Sanction, Treatment, Assessment, Revocation and Transition Center (START) was slightly more than half full after the first two weeks. Operated by Community Counseling and Correctional Services Inc. of Butte, the three-year pilot project will be reviewed for its effectiveness before a decision is made on whether to make such a program a permanent part of the corrections system in Montana.

*More BUSY, Page 2*

## New Signpost editor welcomes articles for newsletter

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Bob Anez and I joined the Department of Corrections as communications director in late August. In that role, I also have assumed the job of editor for *The Correctional Signpost*.



Anez

Before taking this new job, I was statehouse reporter for The Associated Press in Helena for the past 20 years. In all, I worked for the AP for 24 years. Before that, I worked at the Great Falls Tribune and for newspapers in Kalispell. I obtained my bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Montana in 1975.

I will follow the lead of previous

*Signpost* editor, Sally Hilander, and publish quarterly. It's just taken a bit longer than I had hoped to get out this first edition, but it took a while to get my feet on the ground in the new job.

And, like Sally, I welcome submissions from throughout the agency. Call me with your ideas at (406) 444-0409, or e-mail me at [banez@mt.gov](mailto:banez@mt.gov).

# Busy

From Page 1

The 2005 Legislature authorized such a "revocation center" to help reduce the flow of inmates into an already overcrowded system.

A new inmate phone system went on line in December at Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility.

The service, provided by Public Communications Service, will mean cheaper calls for inmates and their families. A 30-minute, long-distance call anywhere in the continental United States now costs \$8.75, plus applicable taxes. That is a 72 percent decrease from the old rate, which averaged \$31.54 for such a call.

Montana State Prison inmates have new tools to help them with their legal work.

The Offender Legal Assistance Program provides inmates with computers and software that allows them access to laws, court rulings and legal forms. They can use the programs to prepare legal challenges to their convictions, sentences and confinement.

The new system replaces one that relied upon contracts with private attorneys to supply legal assistance.

Jan. 2 marked the start of another pilot project. This one offers inexpensive bus service between Butte, Anaconda and Montana State Prison for prison employees.

The service is supplied by Tucker Transportation of Butte. The schedule will serve all three major shifts at the prison: 6 a.m., 2 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Roundtrip prices are \$5 from Butte and \$4 from Anaconda. The state pays half the fare.

The project, intended to help improve recruitment and retention of employees at the prison, will be evaluated after 90 days to determine whether to seek competitive proposals for providing the service permanently.

In the fall, the department also issued a request for proposals for development of a 120-bed meth treatment program. The deadline for proposals is Jan. 10.



ABOVE: The first Montana State Prison inmates arrive by van at the START center in Warm Springs on Dec. 12. BELOW: A view of one of the cellblocks at the START center.



## Just what is START program?

**By Mike Ferriter**  
**Administrator, Adult Community**  
**Corrections**

The START (Sanction, Treatment, Assessment, Revocation and Transition) program is an 80-bed facility located at Warm Springs. Male offenders are placed in the program after a disciplinary, on-site or intervention hearing by a community corrections hearings officer as a sanc-

tion or because the offender's community placement was revoked.

Sanctioned offenders will likely be at the program for 30 days or less. The division administrator must approve longer stays. After completing their stay, offenders will go back to their previous status such as parole, probation, prerelease or conditional release. Sanctioned offenders are seen as doing county jail time for not complying with supervision requirements.

*More START, Page 5*



# DOC explores Indian corrections

By Bob Anez

DOC Communications Director

Gov. Brian Schweitzer asked the Department of Corrections to look into a program utilized in Canada that attempts to have Indian tribes play a larger role in the lives and rehabilitation of Indian offenders.

The program is based on the theory that the strong influence of tribal elders and culture can do more to change criminal behavior than the conventional justice system alone.

Two of the governor's aides and four department staffers, including the director, traveled to Lethbridge, Alberta, to get a firsthand look at the program operated by the Blackfoot Tribe there.

The delegation spent about six hours gathering information from tribal officials and touring a prerelease center operated by the tribe on the reservation near Lethbridge.

The program provides culturally sensitive and tribal community-based corrections services for Indian offenders. The program does not involve unilaterally turning offenders over to tribal jurisdiction.

The program excludes those accused of murder and drunken driving.

The program's goals are to:

--Insert into the conventional justice system opportunities to apply tribal culture and traditions that hold Indian offenders accountable and offer them alternatives to court and prison.

--Prevent offenders from becoming enmeshed in a justice system that can seem foreign and intimidating due to cultural and language barriers.

--Involve the tribal community in helping offenders get back on the right track by giving elders – the most respected tribal members – a role in determining punishment, in collaboration with the victim, victim's family and prosecutor.

The first opportunity is after offenders are arrested and before they are charged.

The prosecutor, victim, victim's family and offender may agree that the offender be subjected to a "healing circle."

To be eligible, offenders must have no prior offenses and admit to their crime.

The "circle" is a committee composed of the offender, victim, prosecutor and tribal elders.

The circle determines the appropriate punishment, including community service, restitution, treatment and counseling, and how to resolve differences between the offender and victim.

Elders are involved in the counseling programs.

The second opportunity is when an offender reaches court.

A "native court worker" is assigned to aid the accused in finding a lawyer, helping the offender understand the criminal justice system, and acting as liaison between the offender and the court.

The worker gathers information about the offender's family and employment history, and may speak on behalf of the offender at the sentencing.

The worker does not act as a lawyer or give legal advice.

The worker can help prevent instances where offenders are so intimidated by the justice system that they merely plead guilty rather than try to cope with the confusing legal morass.

The worker can help determine if an offender would be suitable for sentencing to tribal corrections programs that include a prerelease center, probation, access to chemical dependency treatment, mental health services and counseling by elders.

The key to success of the program is tribal involvement, with elders using their positions of respect within the tribe to persuade offenders to turn their lives around.



The prerelease center on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation near Lethbridge, part of a tribal effort to have greater impact on offender rehabilitation among tribal members.

# Medical claims in ACLU suit dismissed

A federal magistrate has found that Montana State Prison has met the requirements for improving inmate medical care contained in an agreement settling a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union after the 1991 prison riot.

The decision by U.S. Magistrate Leif Erickson dismissed a major portion of the lawsuit, dealing with medical, dental and mental health services at the Deer Lodge prison.

"With dismissal of the medical complaints, we have reached a significant milestone in our efforts to create a comprehensive and effective system of health care at the prison," Corrections Director Bill Slaughter said. "We did these things because it's the right thing to do, not just because of the lawsuit."

The mandates were contained in a 1994 settlement agreement reached between the state and ACLU to resolve the case without a trial. The agreement called for hiring a full-time doctor and a part-time psychiatrist and hiring more nurses. It also required medical screening of all incoming inmates and timely referrals to outside specialists, and addressed dispensing of over-the-counter medications,

eye care, annual physicals for older inmates, dental care and mental health care. Impartial experts were appointed to periodically visit the prison to monitor the state's progress in complying with the agreement. They filed a dozen reports since 1995 that chronicle the prison's accomplishments.

During the 11 years since the agreement was signed, the state complied with each of the medical provisions. The final issue was a requirement that inmates needing to see a physician will do so within no more than five days and that patients will receive timely referrals to specialists outside the prison when necessary.

Following the latest review of medical care at the prison, the state and the ACLU agreed to end court monitoring of the medical provisions in the agreement.

"I want to commend all of the staff in the infirmary, particularly Health Care Bureau Chief Cathy Redfern, for their diligence over a decade of hard work to gain compliance with the standards set for this in this settlement," said Warden Mike Mahoney.

The ACLU filed the lawsuit after the 1991 prison riot that led to the murder of five inmates in protective custody.

## Recruitment efforts seeking to fill staff shortages

**By Bob Anez**  
**DOC Communications Director**

An aggressive and innovative campaign by the Department of Corrections to attract more correctional officers to Montana State Prison is paying off.

Over the past few months, the officer shortage has been cut in half to about 22. This follows a recruitment drive that has involved a multimedia ad campaign, a raise for incoming officers, rewards for employees recommending job applicants, and the start of a pilot project to provide transportation for commuting prison staff.

Prison officials said they still need nearly two dozen officers, including 19 required to open the refurbished former reception unit capable of holding about 85 low-security inmates now housed on the high side because of a lack of cells elsewhere.

Steve Barry, administrator of the department's Human Resources Division, said recruitment is difficult because of several factors. The general public has a negative view of working in a prison environment and see the

job as more dangerous than it is, he said.

Also, he said, the wage level for officers is not competitive with jobs in private business, although a recent raise in the starting pay to \$12 an hour helps address that problem.

Geography plays a role in the staffing shortage. Barry said the Deer Lodge Valley and Butte-Silver Bow area no longer provide a large pool of qualified applicants. Younger people move elsewhere to make more money, housing has become more difficult to find in the Deer Lodge area and parents discourage their children from working in the prison, he said.

The most recent enticement by the department is a program that offers DOC employees a \$150 "recruitment incentive bonus" for recommending a qualified applicant for one of the openings where shortages are the most severe.

The list includes correctional officers, medical doctors, registered nurses and licensed practical nurses at the state prison, and teachers, nurses and chemical dependency counselors at Pine Hills and Riverside youth correctional facilities.

The initial bonus is paid when a recommended applicant is hired. The employee can earn a second \$150 reward after the new hire completes one year on

the job. Applicants must certify in an affidavit which employee personally referred them to the department for a job.

"Please consider this opportunity to recruit someone you know that may be qualified for, have an interest in and be able to contribute to the department mission through one of the listed positions," Director Bill Slaughter said in announcing the rewards program to department employees.





## New Home

A portion of DOC's central office staff has been in refurbished and more roomy quarters since the end of August. Human resources, including payroll and training, and the Information Technology Bureau have set up shop in the second floor of the Capital Hill Plaza, or what has become known as "the annex."

**Left:** Carol Fah of the human resources staff in her spacious office.

# START

*From Page 2*

One might call a sanction a "wake-up" call. The hearings officer is warning an offender that his freedom is in serious jeopardy. During the sanction period, the staff at START will assist offenders and give them opportunities to improve their chances of staying in the community once released.

Revocation-status offenders are placed at START after a community corrections hearings officer feels the offender has worn out his welcome in the community.

It is likely that the offender has been given prior chances to fulfill supervision conditions and the time has come for the offender to be held accountable for not following the rules. It is also likely that a hearings officer feels the offender is posing a threat to public safety and is probably viewed as out of control and needing more structure.

Prior to the opening of START in mid-December, offenders would have gone directly to the reception unit at the Montana State Prison.

The goal of START is to assess the offender's options and to see what might help him to be returned to the community instead of being sent to prison. The assessment will come in the form of exploring the offender's needs and determining the root of the offender's behavior that landed him in the program.

Once staffers have completed the assessment and are comfortable with the offender's progress, they will work with the offender to apply for community options. The options may be prerelease, intensive or enhanced supervision, boot camp, or even a straight parole or conditional release.

## P&P officer got fresh perspective during his year in Iraq with Montana Guard unit

**By Kelly Speer  
Corrections Manager**

Probation and Parole Officer Darrell Vanderhoef of Helena says his year in Iraq taught him how fortunate Americans are.

A member of the Montana National Guard, he said Montanans should cherish their clean air, snow, mountains, good living conditions, and not having to live with the fear of dying in a war zone.

"We don't know how good we have it," he said.

Vanderhoef, 41, is a staff sergeant in Bravo Company, 1-163rd Infantry, and returned to the United States in October. For the first two months of his deployment, he was stationed in Samarra, Iraq, and then spent the following nine months in northern Iraq, about 50 miles south of Kirkuk.

Vanderhoef's unit was responsible for policing the immediate and outlying areas by doing vehicle and foot patrols, clearing roads, checking for roadside bombs and searching for insurgents,

weapons, and stockpiles of weapons. After raiding villages to eliminate these dangers, the unit would provide support for the people in the village by determining community needs and helping fill those needs.



Vanderhoef

Vanderhoef, who was hired as a drill instructor in 1995 at the Treasure State Correctional Training Center at Deer Lodge, became an institutional probation and parole officer at Montana State Prison in 2003. After his return from Iraq, he transferred into the Helena Probation and Parole Office as a field officer.

Vanderhoef's three daughters, who stayed with his brother while he was in Iraq, are happy to have their dad home.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Other department employees who have served with U.S. forces in Iraq will be featured in future editions of *The Signpost*.**



## Focus on the budget

# Regional officers make a difference

**By Steve Brant  
Regional Administrative Officer**

In August of 2005, the Montana Correctional Association recognized the Youth Services Division's regional administrative officers for making a significant contribution to the state of Montana. However, few in the Department of Corrections know much about these five employees who oversee a \$6 million annual budget.

When the financial specialist position (later called regional administrative officer) was created in August 1997 to address issues with the department's youth placement budget, no one could foresee how the position would evolve. At the time, the department had fewer than two full-time employees in Helena trying to monitor and analyze the state's youth placement budget that funded the state's juvenile parole officers and county juvenile probation workers in 22 judicial districts. The county workers now are state Justice Department employees.

Recordkeeping was inconsistent. The department often was not notified of new placements, payments to providers were often incorrect, and overpayments were common and difficult to identify. Fiscal year-end reports could not be accurately compiled. Moreover, spending threatened to exceed the budget and force the department to request supplemental funding.

There are only two ways to stay within budget during a time of increasing needs: Decrease spending or increase funding. The regional officers were hired to do both. An officer for each of the five regions was hired, along with a supervisor in Helena.

The officers quickly established a rapport with the juvenile parole and juvenile probation officers. To control spending, the officers attended Youth Placement Committee meetings in their respective regions, analyzed the appropriateness of youths presented for placement, and provided input on the cost and services of the facilities being considered. They then followed up on recommended placements to ensure they were swiftly and accurately entered in the Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) payment system.

Soon the officers realized they could not maintain their credibility while emphasizing a reduction in the number of placements, without knowing the status of the statewide juvenile parole budget and each judicial district's budget. The officers began to analyze spending in comparison to the budget. Reports contain-



Brant

***"The RAOs have a proven record of innovative, quality performance at the highest levels, addressing and resolving diverse issues and challenges." --Trish Stroman, supervisor***

ing charts and substantiating data were prepared monthly and presented to the appropriate parties.

Within a year, the department was able to rely on the placement expense data generated by CAPS, expenses were maintained within budget, and control of overpayments was tightened. Due to certain quirks of the CAPS system, overpayments cannot be eliminated, but the officers now identify nearly all overpayments. Through fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the officers identified

\$54,782 in overpayments, much of which has been recovered. Efforts continue to recover the remainder.

The officers have secured alternative funding for youth placements to ease the strain on the general fund budget. They research Social Security benefits received by placed youths and work with the Social Security Administration to name the department as recipient. Recently, this function was expanded when the officers received training in obtaining disability benefits for appropriate youths who had not previously received such benefits.

The officers also established monthly cost-of-care contributions to be paid by the placed youth's parents. The officers not only obtain financial information from the parents, analyze the information and perform the contribution calculation, but they also draft the order of support and work with the court to obtain the court's approval.

So how much has this benefited the State of Montana?

Social Security benefits and parental contributions have increased 150 percent, from \$239,312 to \$607,620, during the past five years. The officers have netted \$2.3 million in that period.

Margaret Jennings-Jeffrey, the first supervisor of the regional officers, recently said, "It is satisfying to see what was built from scratch with no previous model to follow."

"The RAOs have a proven record of innovative, quality performance at the highest levels, addressing and resolving diverse issues and challenges," said Trish Stroman, the current supervisor. "Managing funds for another agency could be a tumultuous task; however, the RAOs present clear direction and balanced perspectives aligning everyone toward the common goal of providing appropriate services to youth."

*More REGIONAL, Page 8*

# Community corrections grows to meet demand

**By Kelly Speer  
Corrections Manager**

Prior to the 2005 legislative session, the Department of Corrections assessed the number of offenders in the system, particularly those in community supervision and those offenders returned to the prison after violating conditions of their supervision.

The workload report showed 7,411 offenders on supervision, a 4 percent increase in two years. Law-makers eventually approved 19 new positions in the Probation and Parole Bureau, most of which are probation and parole officers.

At the end of November 2005, the workload report showed 7,712 offenders on active supervision, a 6 percent jump from 2004. Within the last month alone, the probation-and-parole caseload has increased 2 percent. As a result, the bureau needs 16 more officers beyond those just hired.

In response to the increase of offenders over the past two years and to help relieve prison overcrowding, the Community Corrections Division will increase program capacity by 278 beds over the next biennium. The division also has developed a variety of resources for sanctioning non-compliant offenders.

Existing sanctions have included everything from a curfew, community service, support meetings, outpatient treatment and jail time.

Additional sanctions planned or in place include: --ISP sanction program – A 30-90 day program that focuses on a schedule, electronic monitoring, and increased supervision.

--Connections Corrections program sanction beds – 10 beds available for parolees, conditional release, and prerelease offenders.

--Prerelease sanction beds – These will be available at the Great Falls and Billings prerelease centers for 10- to 30-day sanctions.

--TSCTC aftercare – Designed for boot camp graduates who violate conditions of their supervision. These offenders will return to the Great Falls prerelease center for 30 days.

--Day reporting – Increased supervision through day reporting in Kalispell and Glendive.

--Enhanced supervision program – Increased supervision through a prerelease center by one-on-one meetings with a case manager, day reporting and breathalyzer testing, increased urinalysis, a weekly itinerary, and various programming.

--Sanction Treatment Assessment Revocation Transition (START) – A two-part program designed as a sanctioning program for non-compliant offenders and for those offenders being revoked.

--Methamphetamine program – In March 2006, a contract is expected to be awarded for a 120-bed inpatient methamphetamine treatment program.



## A Message from The Director

**Bill Slaughter**

### A look back at 2005

I guess it's natural for all of us to take a final look at events of the past year as 2005 comes to a close.

We have faced the challenges of an overflowing population in our secure facilities and jails, rising caseloads for treatment staff and probation and parole officers, and the loss of re-entry dollars in youth services.

We all have felt the sting of losing fellow employees and friends to cancer, resignation and retirement.

The new administration has asked us to rethink a lot of old practices and challenged us to produce better results with a much tougher offender population.

We all are faced with higher medical and fuel costs that have stressed budgets and families.

But wait. Before we all jump off the nearest overpass or quit and start cooking Big Macs, we should remember that we had a lot of success in 2005 as well.

With the assistance of our colleagues in secure care and community corrections, our contractors and, yes, even the Legal Division, we have worked hard to address the overcrowding issues as a team.

We opened an 80-bed revocation center at Warm Springs, a project that took just 75 days from conception to putting offenders in beds.

We built beds and revamped living areas at Montana State Prison and Montana Women's Prison, and added nearly 200 prerelease beds around Montana.

We hired a full-time employee recruiter, enlisted the governor to appear in our recruitment ads, and raised starting pay for correctional officers.

It seems to be working. We're attracting some excellent new employees as staffing levels are stabilizing.

We have seen our state prison infirmary staff and prison leadership step up and, once and for all, put us into substantial compliance, lifting long-term federal oversight of our facilities.

We have seen probation and parole officers face a deadly force situation, rely on their training to eliminate the threat, and survive.

The Montana Department of Corrections has stretched its resources, tested its leadership and challenged its staff to do more with less.

This Christmas I watched with pride and amazement as the boot camp provided hundreds of cords of firewood for the poor and elderly, as the central office staff adopted a deserving family to support, and as department employees around the state gave to those in need and to each other.

All I can say is, your director is proud to be associated with folks who care about what they do, who care for each other and who make corrections work in Montana.

## Regional

From Page 6

"It's an honor to be associated with this fine group of dedicated people," she said.

The officers developed their own database to track placement expenses, perform budget projections, generate budget reports, track and allocate Social Security benefits and parental contributions, and generate parental contribution invoices. The software license fees were less than \$500.

Several developments over the past five years have impacted the youth placement budget and the regional officers. The Youth Services Division instituted the Juvenile Delinquency Intervention Program, whereby each participating judicial district may use unspent money to fund intervention programs to prevent delinquency and the need to move youths out of their homes. Budget status reports and projections for the judicial districts prepared by the officers are vital to making the program work.

The officers also serve as hearings officers for parole revocations and must approve CAPS services and parole detention payments.

The regional officers are Steve Brant, Kalispell; Sue Davis, Billings; Theresa Davis, Helena; Ken McGuire, Great Falls; and Lois Petritz, Missoula.

### DOC employees help hurricane victims

Department of Corrections employees collected hundreds of pounds of donated supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

A tractor-trailer rig carrying more than 220 boxes jammed with everything from shirts and pants to baby formula and first aid supplies pulled away from the Montana Department of Corrections offices in September, bound for Baton Rouge, La.

Department employees in Great Falls and Helena collected or donated themselves the supplies during the past week for shipment to Louisiana corrections workers and their families, whose lives and homes were destroyed by hurricane Katrina.

The shipment was combined, free of charge, with another load of supplies being trucked to Biloxi, Miss. The \$250 cost of hauling the Corrections Department donations the additional miles to Baton Rouge was paid by the American Corrections Association.

## Richards honored

By Sally Hilander  
Victim Information Specialist

Peyton Tuthill devoted her life to helping others. She and Anita Richards never met each other, but they have a lot in common.

Richards has devoted 15 years of her life to promoting crime victim rights and on Dec. 7, she received a national award that honors the memory of Peyton Tuthill.

Peyton was a young woman who volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, provided music therapy for Alzheimer's patients, mentored children from a poor socioeconomic background, worked for the American Cancer Society, and taught drug and alcohol awareness to her peers. On Feb. 14, 1999, she left work and went home to walk her dog. She unlocked her door to her duplex to find an angry stranger waiting. Donta Page tortured, raped and murdered Peyton, 23.



Richards

Page was serving a 20-year sentence in Maryland for armed robbery when corrections officials granted him an early release to Colorado so he could enroll in a private drug-and-alcohol rehabilitation program near Peyton Tuthill's home. The

day before Page murdered Tuthill, he was kicked out of the program. Colorado officials said they were not obligated to notify the public because the offender wasn't one of theirs.

Peyton became a poster child for the 2004 Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS), a formal agreement between member states that standardizes supervision rules and systematically controls the interstate movement of some 250,000 adult parolees and probationers.

Every year, the ICAOS honors Peyton Tuthill's memory by presenting an award to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership and service to the compact.

Richards, of Seeley Lake, was selected to receive the 2005 Peyton Tuthill Award for her outstanding support of victim service programs. Her work as an outspoken advocate for victims' rights began after the 1992 murder of her son, Jim.

She represents victims of crime on Montana's Interstate Compact Council. She is a founder of the Crime Victims Advisory Council and helped bring the VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) system to Montana. She is involved in the department's new Victim-Offender Dialogue Program and founded a Victim Impact Panel at the Treasure State Correctional Training Center. She is a victim consultant for the Flathead County Restorative Justice Council, a mediator for Montana's justice courts, and a director for a restorative justice program in Missoula County.

"Anita's efforts are not limited to her role on Montana's Interstate Compact Council. Her efforts are far-reaching and truly consistent with the goals of the new compact," said Mike Ferriter, Montana's Interstate Compact administrator and the head of the Adult Community Corrections Division.



# Corrections officials visit Colorado sites



During the first week of December, six Department of Corrections employees met with Colorado corrections officials and toured four of that state's correctional facilities.

The visit included stops at the new Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center at Colorado Springs, the Kit Carson Correctional Center in Burlington, the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center, and the Denver Women's Correctional Facility.

The re-entry center is operated by a private company and offers a 180-day program for inmates within six months of being discharged.

The 750-bed medium security prison is a dormitory-style setting designed to reduce recidivism by better preparing inmates for returning to society.

The Kit Carson prison, operated by CCA, is almost identical to the company's prison in Shelby and is

seen as a possible location for Montana inmates, should some have to be moved out of state due to overcrowding.

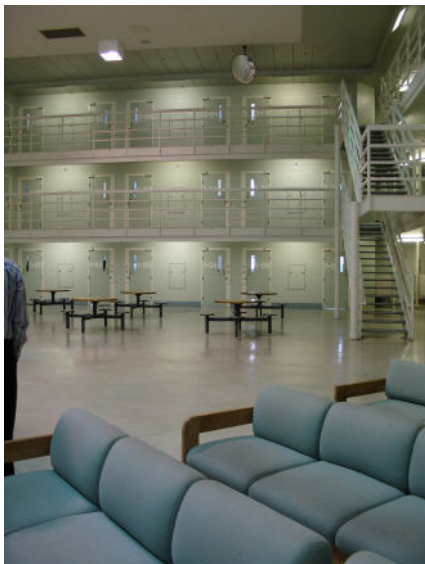
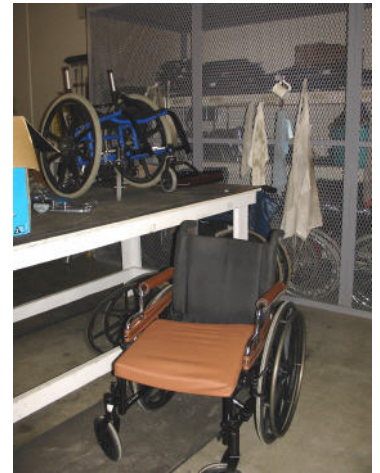
The Kit Carson prison was opened in 1998 and can house about 820 inmates.

The reception and diagnostic center on the outskirts of Denver has 400 beds and all inmates entering the corrections system do so through this facility. Operating since 1991, the center originally was intended to handle eight incoming inmates a day, but is receiving 45 daily. Expansion plans are under way.

The center operates much as the Martz unit does at MSP.

The women's prison, capable of holding 900 inmates, is located adjacent to the intake center. Women inmates supplement the staff of the intake center.

Colorado corrections officials outlined their plans for an e-mail system for inmates and their families, and for video visitations. They also described their gang member tracking process and demonstrated a computerized system for keeping track of incident reports throughout the prison system.



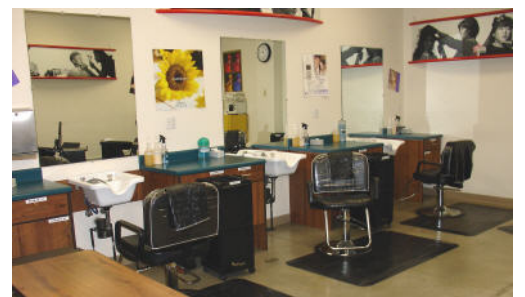
TOP LEFT: Large signs reinforcing positive behavior and thinking line the walls of the Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center.

TOP RIGHT: A wheelchair refurbishing industry at the Kit Carson prison.

LEFT: A cellblock at the intake center.

ABOVE: Deputy Warden Ross Swanson walks toward the Denver women's prison.

RIGHT: A cosmetology program at the Denver women's prison.



# New Employees

EDITOR'S NOTE: This list includes new hires through Dec. 23, 2005, based on personnel records in the central office. If you notice any errors or omissions, please call the *Signpost* editor at (406) 444-0409, or e-mail him at [banez@mt.gov](mailto:banez@mt.gov).

## Central Office

Robert Anez  
Dale Aschim  
Steve Barry  
Cindy Fradette  
Betty Huckins  
Jane LaMoure  
Elizabeth Larson  
Kelly Martinez

## Montana State Prison

David Allen  
Vera Babcock  
Travis Bailey  
Brian Benjamin  
Michael Bentchik  
Shannon Brien  
Mike Braach  
David Byers  
Nicholas Carter  
Tim Coleman  
Chrisopher Conell  
Anthony Cotton  
Janel Dillon  
Lacey Downey  
John Dubois  
Jennifer Eastman  
Geri Everson  
Gregory Frazer  
Aaron Frederick  
Tom Goddard  
Sam Griffel  
Rodney Harding  
Heather Hawkins  
Leonard Hoschied  
Amber Johnston  
Bryan Kester  
Robert Kichnet  
Marci Lay  
Lena Leland  
Monty Letexier  
Jean Malcolm  
Carrie McCarthy  
Mark McCullars

Shawn McDermott  
Ron McDonald  
Jane McMahon  
Timothy Meagher  
Erin Miller  
Kelli Monroe  
Jeri Payne  
Robert Newgard  
Angela Pierson  
Jason Ray  
David Robbins  
Patrick Roberts  
Chris Rohan  
Sara Ronnemose  
Joshua Shafer  
Cynthia Sparing  
Robert Struna  
Cody Swanson  
Paul Thompson  
James Tilley  
Julie Walsh  
Christopher Whelchel  
Chris Williams  
Laura Young

## Montana Women's Prison

Mark Kotrc  
Michelle Feedback  
Quint Paterson  
Timothy Roan  
Sean Ronlake  
John Soto

## Pine Hills

Sue Alexander-Pruitt  
Elysia Bain  
William Bradley  
Mary Dunphy  
Tracey Juhl  
Judy Niemi  
Ruthann Shope

## Probation/Parole

Megan Allen – Deer Lodge  
Jami Bartole – Bozeman  
Katie Burton – Kalispell  
Wendy Calvi -- Great Falls  
Cody Danielson – Helena  
Keely Doss -- Kalispell  
Bradley Enebretson – Hamilton  
John Frost – Billings

Rachel Gerhart – Havre  
Sandra Gunderson – Missoula  
Nancy Jovin – Hamilton  
Rebekka Klein – Bozeman  
Lavonne Miller-Kautmann – Glendive  
Brad Minster – Missoula  
Michelle Puerner – Bozeman  
Gerald Rudolph – Bozeman  
Kim Stradinger -- Butte  
Patricia Wolfe – Missoula

## Riverside

Mary Bagley  
Stephanie Motil  
Lisa Wirth

## TSCT

Cory Frankovich  
Karen Vaughn

## Youth Transitional Center

Cole Brilz  
Lonnie Johnson



## Montana Department of Corrections Mission

The Montana Department of Corrections enhances public safety, promotes positive change in offender behavior, reintegrates offenders into the community and supports victims of crime.

## Signpost Deadlines

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Edition</u>
March 31.....	Spring
June 30.....	Summer
Sept. 30.....	Fall
Dec. 30.....	Winter

## The Correctional Signpost

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